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REMARKS

Applicants and the undersigned reviewed the Office Action carefully before preparing this response. Reconsideration is respectfully requested. Nonetheless, in light of the positions presented herein, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Several sets of claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, for enablement. The Examiner's concerns are well-taken, but Applicants' use of the term "coupling" is reasonably supported throughout the specification as describing a nitrogenous terminus/moiety between, *i.e.*, coupling, a substrate and a polymeric component. Reference is made to the second full paragraph on page 6, together with the figures 2 and 4 and corresponding portions of the specification.

Solely for purposes of clarification, without prior art reference, claims 6, 14 and 20 are hereby amended consistent with claim 1, to more clearly recite the structural relationship. As such, Applicants' invention is sufficiently enabled, and the subject claims should be allowed to proceed toward issue.

Several claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C., § 102(a) as anticipated by Billancia. Again, Applicants appreciate the Examiner's concern. However, terpyridine is not pyridine or pyridinyl. Further, it should be understood that this reference is known in the art as a preprint. It is neither peer-reviewed nor conclusive. The author acknowledges the latter by stating on page 509: "... the exact orientation of these glycols is not yet fully understood. Better purification techniques will be applied ... before NMR can be used to determine whether the terpyridines are coordinated or not." In short, Billancia does not describe Applicants' pyridinyl moieties and is unable to determine whether a nitrogenous moiety coupled or coordinated to a substrate.

The mere disclosure of a proposed formula or sequence of words to designate a chemical entity does not, by itself, anticipate. It is well-established

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that where the prior art fails to provide a method of production, the reference does not place that entity in the possession of the public and, therefore, does not anticipate the chemical entity. Billancia does not describe, with any certainty, Applicants' coupling moiety or composite. Moreover, it fails to provide a route whereby such a composite could be produced. Without further unspecified processing, Billancia does not place nitrogenous coordination (i.e., coupling) in public possession.

As such, with respect to claim 1, Billancia does not anticipate Applicants' nitrogenous coupling moiety. Likewise, with respect to claim 11, Billancia does not anticipate Applicants' pyridinyl moiety. The rejection should be withdrawn, with the subject claims allowed to proceed toward issue.

Several claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C., § 102(e) as anticipated by Ekwuribe. However, as referenced by the Examiner, Ekwuribe describes a number of polyethylene glycol pyridinium derivatives. Such pyridinium moieties are structurally different from Applicants' pyridinyl moieties and, as would be understood by those skilled the art, impart an entirely different chemical function to any associated polymeric component. As such, Ekwuribe does not anticipate Applicants' invention. The rejection should be withdrawn, with the subject claims allowed to proceed toward issue.

Several other claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C., § 102(e) as anticipated by Gaw. Again, Applicants understand the Examiner's concern. With reference to the preceding discussion, the terminal, non-coupling amine/amide moieties of Gaw do not anticipate the present invention. Likewise, this rejection should be withdrawn, with subject claims allowed to proceed toward issue.

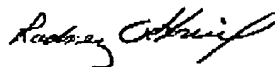
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In light of the preceding, all claims are now believed to be in condition for allowance. Consistent therewith, favorable action is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone should any issue remain. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,



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